



# PERU

## Berkshire County



[NARRATIVE](#)

[GEOGRAPHY](#)

[GOVERNMENT](#)

[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)

[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)

[TRANSPORTATION](#)

[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)

[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



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## NARRATIVE

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### **Narrative**

Peru is a small friendly rural hilltown in central Berkshire County. Incorporated in 1771 as Partridgefield, its name was later changed to Peru. Peru has the highest town center in the state. More than half of the town is woodlands and much of this is owned by the state. Dorothy Frances Rice Wildlife Sanctuary is located on South Road. Garnet Lake, the only lake in town is privately owned. Garnet Mountain Monument was built in memory of 15 soldiers who were killed in a plane crash during World War II on Garnet Mountain. Peru is a community of small owner-operated businesses, zoned agricultural/residential and is a bedroom community for the mills in Dalton, Pittsfield, Springfield and West Springfield. A member of the Central Berkshire Regional School District, the grammar school children go to Hinsdale and the junior and senior high schools are located in Dalton.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Windsor on the north, Cummington and Worthington on the east, Middlefield and Washington on the south, and Hinsdale on the west. Peru is 14 miles east of Pittsfield and 122 miles west of Boston.

**Total Area:** 26.03 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 25.93 sq. miles

**Population:** 779

**Density:** 30 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Peru, Worthington

## Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 655-8312

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1771

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	419		
Democrats	70	16.7	%
Republicans	57	13.6	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	292	69.7	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Peru town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	821	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	821	100.0
Male.....	425	51.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	1	0.1
Female.....	396	48.2	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	32	3.9	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	77	9.4	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	81	9.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	1	0.1
15 to 19 years.....	61	7.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	820	99.9
20 to 24 years.....	26	3.2	White alone.....	804	97.9
25 to 34 years.....	102	12.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	153	18.6	Total population.....	821	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	160	19.5	In households.....	821	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	43	5.2	Householder.....	295	35.9
60 to 64 years.....	22	2.7	Spouse.....	191	23.3
65 to 74 years.....	31	3.8	Child.....	268	32.6
75 to 84 years.....	22	2.7	Own child under 18 years.....	212	25.8
85 years and over.....	11	1.3	Other relatives.....	29	3.5
Median age (years).....	37.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	14	1.7
18 years and over.....	593	72.2	Nonrelatives.....	38	4.6
Male.....	315	38.4	Unmarried partner.....	18	2.2
Female.....	278	33.9	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	566	68.9	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	76	9.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	64	7.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	36	4.4	Total households.....	295	100.0
Female.....	28	3.4	Family households (families).....	228	77.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	112	38.0
One race.....	812	98.9	Married-couple family.....	191	64.7
White.....	804	97.9	With own children under 18 years.....	92	31.2
Black or African American.....	2	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	22	7.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	14	4.7
Asian.....	4	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	67	22.7
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	48	16.3
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	15	5.1
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	121	41.0
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	48	16.3
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.78	(X)
Vietnamese.....	4	0.5	Average family size.....	3.14	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	378	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	295	78.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	83	22.0
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	44	11.6
Some other race.....	1	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	3.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	9	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	295	100.0
White.....	807	98.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	276	93.6
Black or African American.....	9	1.1	Renter-occupied housing units.....	19	6.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	1.0	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.81	(X)
Asian.....	4	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.42	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	2	0.2			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Peru is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

### Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 143, which connects up in neighboring Hinsdale with State Route 8, a parallel route to U.S. Route 7 running N-S through the Berkshires.

### Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Peru, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

### Bus

Peru is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

### Other

The Pittsfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Pittsfield, has 2 asphalt runways 3,496' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Scheduled airline service is available in Albany, New York, and at Bradley Field in Connecticut (both approx. an hour from Pittsfield).



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.